

Early Piety Exemplified,
IN THE
LIFE and DEATH
OF
Mary Whiting,

A Faithful Handmaid of the
Lord ; who Departed this Life,
in the 22d Year of her Age.

Written by her Brother **John Whiting.**

With Two of her EPISTLES to
FRIENDS.

*The Diligent Hand maketh Rich, but the Sluggard is
Cloathed with Rags. As in the outward, so in the
inward ; let him Read, that can Understand.*

The Second Edition.

LONDON:

Printed and Sold by **J. Sowle,** in *White-
Hart-Court in Gracious-Street, 1711.*

IN THE
LIFE AND DEATH

OF

A Faithful Handmaid of the
Lord who Departed this Life
in the 22d Year of her Age.

Written by John Wesley
with T. R. PISTLES
LONDON



The original of this manuscript is in the
possession of the British Museum.

THE SECOND EDITION
LONDON
Printed and Sold by J. Smith in Strand
1711.

Early PIETY *Exemplified,*
 IN THE
 LIFE and DEATH
 OF
Mary Whiting, &c.

MART WHITING, Daughter of
John Whiting, and *Mary* his
 Wife, of *Naylsey* in the County
 of *Somerſet*; was Born the latter end of
 the 9th Month, in that *Memorable Year*,
 1654. when the Lord was pleaſed in his
 Infinite Love, to ſend his Meſſengers and
 Miniſters (whom he had Raiſed up in the
 North of *England*, and ſent forth to Preach
 again the everlaſting Goſpel of Light and
 Salvation to the Sons and Daughters of
 Men) into the South Parts thereof; whom
 her Father receiv'd, and their Teſtimony,
 and kept Meetings at his Houſe, one of
 the firſt in that County; and Educated
 his Daughter according to the way of

1654.

The Life of Mary Whiting.

Truth he had receiv'd, and walk'd in till
 the time of his Decease, which was in the
 1658. Year, 1658. An Honest, Faithful and Up-
 right Man, of good Report, and left a
 good Savour behind him; who on his
 Death-Bed Exhorted his Wife, *that as she*
had believed in the Light, so she should
walk in it, wick accordingly she did; and
 in the time of her Widowhood continued
 Meetings at her House, as also the Care
 of her Daughter, with me her Son, and
 kept her at School, especially to Read, in
 which she was very ready to Learn, and
 could (and had) Read the Bible all over, when
 very young. But in the time of the *Great*
Imprisonment, after the Coming in of
 1660. King Charles the Second, in the Year 1660.
 when so many Friends were sent to Pri-
 son, for Meeting, and Refusing to take
 the *Oath of Allegiance;* of whom, there
 were about Eleven Score in the County of
Somerset. Among whom, our dear Mother,
 and her Maid, being sent to Prison to *Iwel-*
chester, for refusing the Oath, &c. we
 were left that Winter, to the Care of our
 Grandfather *Evans,* who was no Friend;
 which had no Influence on my Sister,
 to aleniate or estrange her from the *Love*
of the Truth, or her *Innocency.* And in
 1661. the Spring of the Year, 1661. our Mo-
 ther, with about 200 more, being freed

at

The Life of Mary Whiting.

5

at Chard Assizes, by Judge *Foster*, (who misapplying the words of Christ to them, bid them *Go their way and Sin no more, lest a worse thing came upon them*) she returned to her outward Habitation, and took us Home; and soon after Married a Sober Honest Man, and a Friend of the same Parish, one *Moses Bryant*, who had been a Prisoner on the same Account; and was a Loving and Kind Husband to her, and Father-in-Law to us; who took Care of us, and brought us up according to Truth, what in him lay; and continued Meetings at our House as formerly.

And as for my dear Sister, I can truly say of her, she was a very Sober Innocent Maid, all along from her Childhood, as many knew, and can bear witness; one that was never addicted to any bad Words or Actions, but very careful in what she said or did; not given to Play or Pastime, as most Children commonly are in their Youthful Days, but was very Sober, and Religiously inclined from her Childhood, and much given to Reading and Meditation in her younger years; so that *Friends* of the Ministry, as *John Audland*, *John Camm*, *Tho. Briggs*, *Tho. Salthouse*, and others who used to come to our House in those Days, took notice of her Sobriety, and delighted to hear her Read, and she loved them

The Life of Mary Whiting.

them and their Company from a Child, and would apply that of the Prophet
 Isa. 52. 7. *Isaiah* to them, *How beautiful upon the Mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good Tidings, that publisheth Peace,—that saith unto Sion, thy God reigneth*: Learning Instruction of them while she was young, and would stay in Meetings of her own accord, when some other Children would rather be out at Play. She loved Retirement, and to be alone, to Meditate on the things of God, and Pray to him; and would often go with her Bible, or some Friend's Book into the Garden, or some other private Place by her self, when she had opportunity, instead of going to Play or Pastimes with other Children, and was seldom drawn into Company for Diversions, not minding the Sports and Recreations of the Times, tho' there was Musick and Dancing on the Green, just without our Gate, commonly on *First Days*; which she little regarded, unless to observe their Folly, and lament their Vanity. *She feared the Lord, and Remembered her Creator in the days of her Youth*, and her Mind was bent to Serve him in her Day, and greatest Care not to offend him, minding him above all, and seeking after the best things; desiring above all things, that it might be well with her, when

The Life of Mary Whiting.

7

when Time should be no more; often saying, *that she did not matter what she went through here, so that her Soul might be saved in the End*; little valuing the World, or any thing in it, in Comparison of the Love and Favour of God; her Affections inclining to Heavenly Things, and her Soul lov'd and fought the Lord, *seeking first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness*, and leaving other things to be added in its Season.

She was not of a Stubborn Nature, but Meek, and Tender-Hearted, a word doing more with her, than many Stripes would with some. She was not Light, and Wanton, but Grave and Serious, and Sober-Minded in her Youth; not apt to Laugh, but rather to Weep; yet not Sour, but Affable, of few words, and Savoury, and loved Solitude and Silence to wait upon the Lord. She took great Delight in Reading the Holy Scriptures, and Friend's Books, which she thought most like them, especially the *New Testament*; and made it her **GREAT CONCERN** to Practice what she Read, and to walk accordingly; so as to please God, and find Peace with him, which was her chief desire. I speak what I know, and her Behaviour was Exemplary to all that knew her. All which good Inclinations, and Piety in her younger

The Life of Mary Whiting.

younger years; and much more that might truly be said of her, is to be attributed to the influence of the Grace and Spirit of God, that wrought in her so young, *to teach her to deny ungodliness, and worldly Lusts, and to live Soberly, Righteously and Godly in this present world.* And she hath often told me how *near the Lord was to her when she was a Child, and what fresh incomes of his Love she enjoyed in her tender years; and if at any time she was drawn from it, how she could not rest [like the Needle (or Point of the Compass) touched with the Loadstone] till she returned again to the Centre.*

1666.

In the 9th Month, 1666. when she was about Twelve years of Age, our dear Mother died, to our great Loss, an Honest, Sober Woman; of whom, if I may say it, what I have often heard concerning others, may truly be applied to her; *that she was a loving Wife, a tender Mother, a good Neighbour, a kind Friend, and very Charitable to the Poor; of whom I could say much, if it would be taken from a Son.* After whose Death, we continued with our Father-in-Law; and my Sister was very helpful in bringing up her younger Brothers, which were Three, besides myself; being very Diligent and Serviceable, not Idle or Slothful in Business, but
Careful

The Life of Mary Whiting.

9

Careful and Industrious in her Place, denying her self the Diversions that others delighted in; and was *Loving, Kind, and Courteous, Gentle, and easie to be entreated*; not Proud, but Plain, yet Decent, Modest, Grave and Serious, growing up more and more in the fear of God, and in all her Carriage and Deportment as became the Truth, and was a good Example to us in her Life and Conversation; and would Reprove me, (being younger than her) if she observed I spoke or did any thing amiss; so that she was an awe and check upon me, when I was any ways Light, or Wanton: And I must needs say, she was a Pattern of Vertue, not of Vice, which she was not any ways addicted to, but minding the best things.

I would not be carried by my Affection to her, beyond the Truth; but must say, I hardly ever knew any one more Sober and Religiously inclined than she was from her Childhood; as if she never minded any thing else but that which was Good. And I believe I may say, was as unspotted through the whole Course of her Life, with any defilement whatsoever, as to word or deed, as most in their *Natural State*, till they are *Renewed by Grace*, into their *first Estate of Purity and Innocency*, wherein they were Created.

B

And

The Life of Mary Whiting.

1670.

1671.

And about the Sixteenth or Seventeenth Year of her Age, the Lord began to work more powerfully in her, for the fitting her for himself, and the Work whereunto he afterward called her; *according to the working of his mighty power, whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself*; working in her, according to his good pleasure, the thing that was well pleasing in his sight; redeeming her Mind more and more from all Earthly and Transitory things, and purifying her by the operation of his Spirit, that she might be *made a vessel fit for the Master's use*.

1672.

But in the 4th Month, 1672. and Eighteenth year of her Age, our Father-in-Law dying, we were scattered abroad. I chose *Edmund Beakes* of *Portshead* to be my Guardian; but my Sister, like *Ruth*, clave to her Mother-in-Law, (our Father-in-Laws Second Wife) an Honest Religious Woman also; with whom she lived, till I returned to my own House again, and went through great *Inward Exercise*; often in *Fasting*, and *Watching*, while the *Work of Truth* was upon her, like a *Wise Virgin* with her *Lamp trimmed*, waiting when her Lord would come. Often mourning before the Lord for the enjoyment of his presence, if at any time he was pleased to withdraw, for the Trial of her Faith,

The Life of Mary Whiting.

11

tho' she often *drank of the Brook by the way*, as she said, *through him, in whom all our fresh Springs are.* And was very diligent in Meetings, going often to *Bristol-Meeting Six Miles*, and Home again on foot, for the sake of Meetings, and Friends of the Ministry that used to frequent it in those days; besides the Meetings she belonged to, which was usually twice a Week, (and sometimes oftner,) in the same Parish of *Nailsey*, where she dwelt. So that by *waiting upon the Lord*, she renewed her strength, and grew in *Grace*, and in the *Knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*, for whose sake she denied those things that was contrary to his *pure will*, and counted nothing dear to her that she might win him, and be found in him, not having her own *Righteousness*, but be made *partaker* of his, which only *justifies* in the *sight of God*, and is available to *Salvation*, as the same comes to be wrought by his Spirit in the Heart. And lived a very *Chast self-denying Life*, as one that was devoted to the Lord, and given up to Serve him, in whatever he might require of her; whose Spirit wrought mightily in her, for the Accomplishing the Work which he had begun in her, and bringing her into the *Glorious Liberty of the Sons and Daughters of God.*

The Life of Mary Whiting.

And she had pretty much *Exercise* and *working* in her *Mind*, about her appearing in a *Publick Testimony*: And one time especially, being at a Meeting on a *First Day*, where two Eminent Friends of the Ministry were, viz. *Henry Masey*, and *Lawrence Steel*, (who was newly raised in a *Testimony*) the *Power of Truth* seized her in a more than ordinary manner, and wrought so upon her, that she was under a very *Great Concern* in her Spirit, and went Home, and *Fasted several Days* while she was under the *Exercise* of it, (till the Lord was pleased to raise her up into the *Dominion* of his own *Life*, and brought her into a *Resignation* to his *Will*) and yet, as she said to me, she felt no *Hunger*, neither did her *Spirits fail*, but her *Heart cheer'd* her in that Day, and her *Bones flourished as a green Bay-Tree*; yea in the time of *weakness*, she was made *strong*, through the *Power* of the *Lord*, and *virtue* of his *living Presence*, which fill'd her *Heart* day by day, and *the dew lay all Night upon her Branch*. And the Lord enlarged her *Heart*, and loosed her *Tongue* to tell of his *wondrous works*; having waited upon him in the way of his *Judgments*, till it was brought forth into *Victory*, and known the *Travel* of her *Soul* accomplished, being *Redeemed with Judgment*,

The Life of Mary Whiting.

13

ment, and having washed her Garments, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb, and found him whom her Soul loved, greater in her, than he that is in the world; and having tasted of the goodness of the Lord, she could do no less than speak well of his Great Name.

And the Lord having poured out of his Spirit upon her, according to his Promise, that he would pour out his Spirit upon all *Joel 2.* Flesh,—upon Servants, and Handmaids, and that Sons and Daughters should Prophecy; &c. which is fulfilled in our Day, of which she was a Witness in her measure; and so giving up to his Requirings, her Mouth was soon after opened in a Meeting at Backwell, to declare of his Goodness, for which her Soul did magnifie the Lord, and her Tongue did shew forth his praise, who gave her beauty for ashes, the Oyl of Joy for Mourning, and the Garment of Praise, for the Spirit of Heaviness; and made her accepted in the beloved; and the Cause of Sorrow being removed, Joy and Gladness was known in her Habitation; so that her Soul became as a watered Garden, and like a Spring of water, whose waters fail not; and the Lord gave her the Tongue of the Learned, to speak a word in season to the weary Soul. She had a very Living and Effectual Testimony, to the
Comfort

The Life of Mary Whiting.

Comfort and and Encouragement of many, which was well receiv'd, and of Great Service in the Country where she dwelt, Labouring about Home, not going far Abroad for some time; being very Diligent and Retired, minding her Gift, that she might Grow in it, as she did, day by day; Pressing and Exhorting all Friends as she had opportunity, to be Faithful to what the Lord had made known to them, that they might come to know Bread in their own Houses, and Water in their own Cisterns; and having tasted that the Lord was Gracious, she could not but Invite others to come taste and see how good the Lord is, that they might be made willing in the Day of his Power, and give up to him, and come to partake with her of the same precious Faith and Truth revealed in the inward parts, Christ in us the Hope of Glory.

1675.

The beginning of the 3d Month, 1675. she sent the following EPISTLE to Friends, viz.

An

An EPISTLE for the Meeting at Backwell, the 12th of the 3d Month, 1675.

“ **A** Few words unto you that are here
“ this Day Assembled together, as a
“ Salutation of my Love, who am called
“ *Mary Whiting.*

“ Dear and well-beloved Friends, who
“ are gathered and Assembled this Day,
“ in the Name and Fear of the Everlasting
“ God, unto whom be the Glory of our
“ Assemblies; *Grace, Mercy and Peace be*
“ *multiplied upon you from God the Father,*
“ *and from the Lord Jesus Christ, and*
“ *from the Seven Spirits which are before*
“ *his Throne, and from Jesus Christ who is*
“ *the Amen, the Faithful and True Wit-*
“ *ness, the beginning of the Creation of*
“ *God, unto him that loved us, and washed*
“ *us from our Sins in his own Blood; unto*
“ *him be Glory and Dominion for Ever,*
“ *Amen.*

“ Behold he cometh with Clouds, and
“ every Eye shall see him, and they also
“ which pierced him, and all Kindreds of
“ the Earth shall weep and wail because of
“ him; even so, Amen.

“ Behold

The Life of Mary Whiting.

“ Behold, saith he, *I am the Alpha and*
 “ *Omega, the Beginning and the Ending,*
 “ *the bright and Morning Star ; I will give*
 “ *unto him that is a-thirst, he shall drink of*
 “ *the water of Life freely ; and he that*
 “ *drinketh of the Water that Christ shall*
 “ *give him, shall never thirst again, but it*
 “ *shall be in him a Well of Water, springing*
 “ *up into Everlasting Life.*

“ *My Friends, I thought good to shew*
 “ *unto you the Signs and Wonders that*
 “ *the Most High God hath wrought to-*
 “ *wards me ; to the End that ye may un-*
 “ *derstand and know that there is no God*
 “ *in all the Earth, like the God of Israel ;*
 “ *and that Believing in him, ye may*
 “ *come to know and witness those things*
 “ *fulfilled in your selves. Therefore I*
 “ *have sent these words unto you, that*
 “ *you may be satisfied concerning me,*
 “ *and that your Peace may remain, and*
 “ *being Diligent, you may daily witness*
 “ *your Growth in the Precious Truth,*
 “ *which is fresh and lively in its own Pu-*
 “ *rity, and all that are retained in it, are*
 “ *kept alive by it. So let all come to*
 “ *witness that you are Branches of the true*
 “ *Vine, which is Christ, and to Grow by*
 “ *his Vertue, and bear Clusters of the First*
 “ *Fruits in the Spring of the acceptable*
 “ *Year, that so by our Fruits we may*
 “ *honour*

The Life of Mary Whiting.

17

“ honour the *Lord*, for *herein is our*
“ *Heavenly Father Glorified*, in that we
“ *bear much Fruit*. So *Live and Walk in*
“ the *Power* of the *Lord*, which *quickens*
“ and makes *alive*, and is alone able to
“ keep *alive*; and as you keep to the
“ *Power*, it will preserve you in the *New*
“ and *Living* way. So wax bold in this
“ the *Day* of the *Lord*, be *Valiant* for the
“ *Truth upon Earth*, hold forth your *Testi-*
“ *mony* among the *Sons and Daughters* of
“ *Men*, with whom you *Converse* in *Words*
“ and *Conversation*; that so your *Lamb-*
“ *like Life* may *Preach Righteousness* unto
“ them, as *Noah* did in the *Evil World*,
“ and that *walking* in the *way* of the *Lord*
“ blameless, holding forth the *Image* of
“ the *Cælestial Beauty*, all *Men* may be
“ brought to confess that we are *Children*
“ of the *Lord*, because we are taught of
“ him; and as we receive this *Covering*
“ upon us, we shall *adorn the Truth*, and
“ *Beautiful* shall we be in the *Eyes* of all
“ *Beholders*, for many *Eyes* are upon us,
“ beholding us what we do, and watching
“ us, to see whether or no we *walk* accord-
“ ing to the *Principle* held forth by us;
“ which is *Perfection* and *Freedom from*
“ *Sin*, which is alone by *Christ*, who is
“ the *Life*; for the *Law of the Spirit of*
“ *Life in Christ Jesus*, sets us free from
“ the

C

The Life of Mary Whiting.

“ *the Law of Sin and Death, and so come*
 “ *to be free-born by Christ, desiring the*
 “ *sincere milk of the word, that we may*
 “ *Grow thereby from Vertue to Vertue,*
 “ *daily encreasing in the Lord; and the*
 “ *Blessing of the Lord will be multiplied*
 “ *upon you, which is the desire of my*
 “ *Soul. Who am, a Friend and Witness to*
 “ *the Eternal Truth of God, in which I*
 “ *bid you Farewell.*

Naylfey, the 11th Day
of the 3d Month, 1675.

Mary Whiting.

A POSTSCRIPT to the fore-going Epistle.

THE *Vertue* of the *Lord* will more and
 more abound,
 As his own *Holy Arm* doth encompass and
 surround:
 For as the *Gentle Dew* upon the *Lasting*
Hills,
 Even so the *Heavenly Dew* for evermore
 distills
 Upon the *Tender Plants*, that are of *God's*
Right Hand,
 Who round about his *Table* every Day doth
 stand:

For

The Life of Mary Whiting.

19

For whom there is a *Feast of Good Things,*
well Refin'd,

To Eat the *Living Bread,* and Drink the
Living Wine.

And in the *Fulness* of his *Precious Love,*
Return unto him, as it doth us Behove;
The *Everlasting Praise,* and *High Re-*
nown,

Whose Will and Pleasure is to give to us a
Crown

Of most *Infinite, Endless and Eternal*
Glo-ry,

To *Reign* with him for Ever, as *Saints of*
the Most High.

Who Largely doth in this his Day his
Precious Love extend,

And of the *fulness* of the same, shall never
be an End,

To him alone, whose *Right* it is, whose
Glory did *Ascend,*

Be all *Dominion, Praise and Honour,* World
without an End.

M. W.

About this time (I being Returned from
my *Guardians* aforesaid, to my House at
Naylsey) she came and dwelt with me,
while she continued in the Country, La-
bouring as I said, mostly at Home, ex-
cepting some Neighbouring Meetings, as

The Life of Mary Whiting.

Bristol, &c. and a little into Gloucestershire, and so Home again; where she was very Serviceable, and a Blessing to many, and a precious time of *Visitation* it was to many People thereaway, and divers were *Convinced*; so that I may say it was a *Time of Love*, let it never slip out of my Remembrance. And tho' her Time was but short, after the Lord called her into his *Vineyard*, yet her *Work, Labour* and *Service* in the *Truth* was great, for the Prosperity of all in it, that they might come to *work out their own Salvation*, and *make their Calling and Election sure*; and the Lord gave her a *Mouth and Wisdom*, that she might know how to Minister to the States of others, and made her Eloquent in his Hand, and taught her a *Psalms of Praise*, by which she hath often made *Melody* in her Heart to the Lord. And I know it was her real desire to be found doing the will of God, and answer his Requirings in all things, that she might be found approved in his sight, and to speak his words, and not her own. And she had, I know, a great Care and Concern upon her Mind and Spirit for the Welfare and Prosperity of all Friends in the Truth; that all that was *Convinced* of it, might be Faithful to it, and so come to know *Salvation* by it, that they might be hid in
the

The Life of Mary Whiting.

21

the Day of the *Lord's Wrath*, when his *Indignation* would pass over, and be revealed against all the *Workers of Iniquity*. And that others might come to receive the *Truth*, and be made *Pertakers* of it, so as to find *Peace* with him, before the *Evil Day* come; often *Exhorting* People to prize their *Time*, and the *Day of their Visitation*, and seek the *Lord* while he is to be found, turn at his *Reproof* while he strives with them, and waits to be *Gracious*, and Answer his *Call* in the *Day of his Love*, that his long-suffering, goodness and forbearance might lead them to *Repentance*; for the *Spirit of the Lord* will not always strive with *Men*; and if they *Rebell* against it, and would not *Answer* when he calls, they might come to *Call*, and he would not *Answer*; for as in the outward, the *Plant or Tree* that doth not *Budd*, *Blossom*, or bear *Fruit* in the time of *Spring or Summer*, when the *Sap* arises, there is little hopes it will in the *Fall*, or *Winter*, when the *Sap* retires to the *Root or Centre*. So they that do not give up, while the *Spirit of the Lord* strives with them, but resist it, till it ceases striving, may come at last to *Lament*, as some in former days did, the *Harvest* is past, the *Summer* is ended, and we are not *Saved*. And the *Lord* say of them, as he did of some of *Old, Ephraim* is joined to *Idols*, let him alone;

Jer. 8. 20
Hos. 4. 17

alone; saying with the Wise Man, *If thou be Wise, thou shalt be Wise for thy self; but if thou Scorneſt, thou alone ſhalt bear it.* Lamenting the States of ſuch as neglect their Time; and of ſuch, as after they had known the Truth, fell from it, as in a worſe Condition than them that never knew it. Having a Great Concern for all, but eſpecially for the Profeſſors of the Truth, that they might walk worthy, and not fall ſhort, or loſe their Crowns; and therefore it was her earneſt deſire to the Lord, that all Friends might be preſerved Faithful to the End, to *finiſh their Courſe with joy*, that none that had begun well might fall ſhort of *God's Kingdom*, but *obtain the Crown of Life*, which is laid up in ſtore for all the Faithful. With much more that I could Rehearſe of her *Godly Care, Concern and Service* for the Truth, and ſuch as profeſs it, while ſhe was among us.

And thus having Labour'd in the Work of the Lord, for the Proſperity of Zion, and welfare of all her Inhabitants and Converts, for above half a Year in her own Country, ſhe had a Concern upon her, about the beginning of the Sixth Month, 1675. to leave her outward Habitation, and near and dear Relations and Friends, and to Travel Abroad in the
Work

Work of the Lord; and on a First Day in the Meeting at *Clareham*, she took her Leave of Friends, telling them, she did not know whether ever she might see their Faces any more (as indeed it hapned) desiring their Prayers for her, (that she might be preserved to the End) as hers had been for them; and the latter end of that Week she set forth on her Journey, I accompanying her to *Week* in *Gloucestershire*, Six Miles from *Bristol*, and so left her to the Lord; where she Travelled up and down in the Work of the Lord; and thence into *Wiltshire*, and so into *Berkshire*, (part of *Hampshire*) *Oxfordshire*, and *Buckinghamshire*, and was well Accepted and Receiv'd among Friends in all Places where she came, in those Parts, of which she kept a *Journal* of all the Meetings she was at, and the distance one from another, amounting in the whole, to near Five Hundred Miles, before she came to *London*.

And after she had been out some time, she sent an *Epistle* to Friends of our Meeting, 'Containing Salutation of Love, 'and signifying her Welfare; *Exhorting* 'Friends to *Faithfulness*, and to Live in 'Love and Unity, for the Truth was as 'Precious as ever, and the Lord was with 'his People, and the shout of a King was 'among them, as in the Days of Old, &c.

Which

The Life of Mary Whiting.

Which *Epistle* is Lost; for leaving the Original behind me in the North, at the time of her Death, I could never Recover a Copy of it.

And when she had been from Home about Three Months, she sent me a *Letter*, desiring me to come to her, which I did, by way of *Oxford*; and met with her at *John White's*, at *Meadle* in *Buckinghamshire*, on a First Day in the Evening, where she had had a Meeting that Day, being the 21st of the 9th Month, and next Third Day she had a Meeting at *Turvil-Heath*, with *Thomas Gilpin*; and on Fourth Day we went by *Henly*, to *Reading*, intending to have returned Home from thence; but staying in Town that Night, to see *Friends* in Prison (of whom there were many at that time) she had a *Concern* came upon her to go to *London*, to *Visit Friends* there, and so to *London* she went, and I with her; in hopes of her Return Home along with me from thence. But after she had been there about a Month, waiting Opportunities to Clear her self of what lay upon her from the Lord, to Friends in and about that City, and to know his Mind further, what he might Require of her; desiring, if it had been the will of God to Return Home; but the Lord shewed her then it must not be; but that she must

The Life of Mary Whiting.

25

go further to Declare the Truth, where he should lead her. And she being given up to do his Will, and Answer his Requirements in all things which he might Require of her, we Parted; she going Northward, and I Homeward, the beginning of the Eleventh Month, bringing with me her EPISTLE to *Friends*, which here follows.

To the Meetings at Clareham, Portsmouth, and Walton.

“ D E A R and Well-Beloved *Friends*,
“ in and amongst whom the Lord
“ hath Appeared; and by the Arisings
“ and Operations of his Divine Power,
“ which is Blessed for Evermore; he hath
“ gathered many from Darkness to Light,
“ and from the Power of Satan, unto the
“ Power of his dear Son. Unto you a Li-
“ ving Spring is opened in my Heart, and
“ there is none that can sensibly Read me
“ here, but those whose Dwelling is in the
“ Light, and are Born of the Immortal Seed,
“ for in the Life, we feel Life, and we An-
“ swer the Witness in each other. And
“ here is pure unspotted Love, and here is
“ Union and Fellowship, in which the

D

“ World

The Life of Mary Whiting.

“ World cannot comprehend us, for a *Stranger cannot intermeddle with our joy.*

“ And here, my *Dear Friends*, let us all
 “ Dwell, Serving one another in Love.
 “ Let the *Children of the Kingdom Love one*
 “ *another*, and *Glorifie God* over all, that
 “ he may delight to Reveal himself more
 “ and more unto us; for the *Day of his*
 “ *great Salvation* is come, *Honour*, and
 “ *Power and Might* be unto our God for
 “ ever. *Rejoyce ye that Love the Lord*,
 “ who have followed him *thorow many Tri-*
 “ *bulations*; and have *cast down your Crowns*
 “ *at the feet of the Lamb*, and have *Con-*
 “ *fessed to his Great Name*, who alone is
 “ *worthy to Reign over all.*

“ I say unto you my *dear Friends*, *Re-*
 “ *joyce with me in the Fellowship of that*
 “ *Life*, which is *obtained through Death*
 “ *and Sufferings*, for the *End Crowns all*;
 “ *Blessed are they that Labour*, and do not
 “ *Faint*, for there is a *sure Reward* for the
 “ *Righteous*, and those that continue in
 “ *well-doing*. Therefore *work out your Sal-*
 “ *vation with fear and trembling*, *Gird up*
 “ *the loins of your Minds*, be *Sober*, and
 “ *Hope to the End*, for *God is nigh*, who
 “ will *Reward every one according to*
 “ *their Deeds*; and *every Mans Work must*
 “ *be tried by Fire*, of what sort it is; and
 “ all that will not *abide the fire*, must be
 “ *Con-*

The Life of Mary Whiting.

2

*Consumed by it. God Eternal is arisen
to shake terribly the Earth, and the Pil-
lars thereof shall tremble, that so that
which cannot be shaken, may stand for
ever. Therefore let all those who have
been asleep, stand up to Judgment, for
the Day of the Lord is upon all Flesh, and
it will overtake many, as a Thief in the
Night. Therefore let none deceive them-
selves, in putting the Day of the Lord
afar off, for that will bring the Seat of
Violence near; for the Lord of Life and
Glory is come near to Try the Thoughts
of Men and Women, and he beholds the
Slothful and the Careless, who Serve God
slightly, and makes their Profession a
Cloak for their Iniquity, to serve their
own Sinister Ends, and so violate the Royal
Law of God. Let all consider of these
Things before it be too late, and the
Voice be sounded, He that's Wicked, let
him be Wicked still.*

*Let the Sense of these Things Enter
into the Hearts of all Concerned herein;
and let all arise and be doing, whilst
they have a Day, and come forth of that
Rest which is polluted; and do not say
in thy Heart I shall have Peace and Safe-
ty, for thy Destruction will come sud-
denly, whoever thou art. Therefore be-
fore the Loving Kindness of God is shut*

The Life of Mary Whiting.

“ up in his sore Displeasure, *Repent*, and
 “ turn to the *Lord*, if thou canst find a
 “ place, before the *Sun* pass off thy *Dial*.
 “ Do not *Die* in a *Poluted Land*, lest thou
 “ be *Buried* with *Infamy*; but whilst the
 “ *Love of God* is towards thee, retain his
 “ *Love* in thy *Heart*, and it will be well
 “ with thee, and thy *Soul* shall *Live*, and
 “ thou shalt prolong thy *Days* in the *Land*
 “ which the *Lord* thy *God* Giveth to be
 “ thy *Inheritance* for ever. Thou shalt
 “ not *Sow*, and another *Reap*, but thou
 “ shalt long *Enjoy* the *Work* of thy *Hands*.
 “ Therefore if thou incline thine *Ear* to
 “ the *Voice* of the *Lord*, he will hear thee
 “ in thy *Distress*; but if thou shalt bar-
 “ den thy *Heart*, he will refuse to hear
 “ thee in the *Day* of thy *Calamity*, and
 “ thy *Destruction* will be upon thy own
 “ *Head* for ever. Thus in Plainness of
 “ *Speech*, and in true *Love* to all *Souls*.
 “ Concerned, are these things Written, in
 “ *Obedience* to his *Power*, who is *God* over
 “ all, *Blessed* for ever.

“ And Oh! ye *Babes of Life*, ye *Chil-*
 “ *dren* of the *Kingdom*, who are *Born of*
 “ the *Seed Immortal*, and have known the
 “ *washing of the Water of Regeneration*, and
 “ *Reconciliation* unto *God*, ye are *Blessed*
 “ for evermore. With you is my *Life*
 “ bound

The Life of Mary Whiting.

29

bound up, in the bosom of the Father's
Love, where the Sincere Milk of the
word is known, which Nourishes the
Babe Immortal. Ye dear Lambs of the
True Fold, whose Shepherd is the God of
Israel. My Portion, is your Portion,
and my Feeding is in the same Pasture,
even in the Low Valley, where the Streams
runs, which waters the whole Flock of
God. Here is our desired Habitation,
here let us dwell for ever. This is our
Rest, and we have not another; here
we have Bread to Eat, which the
World knows not of.

So Dear Friends, as we have Received
Christ, so let us walk in him, not as
the World, but as becometh the Saints,
and for the Gospel's sake, keep out of
the Evil of the World, and walk in the
pure unspotted Life of Jesus; Let your
Lights shine forth unto the World, for
God hath not Created us to Dishonour,
but to Honour his Holy Name, who
hath Created us a-new in Christ Jesus,
that we might shew forth his Praise;
and that thorow our Holy Conversation
many might be gathered to the bright-
ness of our Rising, and might come to
sit down with us in the Light of the
Everlasting Covenant. Arise and shine
forth in thy Beauty oh Sion, for the
Glory

The Life of Mary Whiting.

“ *Glory of the Lord is arisen upon thee,*
 “ *and shall Cover the Earth; tho’ Dark-*
 “ *ness covers Egypts Land, but Light shall*
 “ *be in the Tents of Israel.*

“ *Therefore my Dear Companions, watch*
 “ *in the Power of the Lamb against the*
 “ *Sin that would easily beset; keep in the*
 “ *pure Chast Life, stand over Temptations,*
 “ *and you will feel Dominion, and in*
 “ *Power Life will be raised, which is*
 “ *stronger than Death; and here in Pati-*
 “ *ence you will Overcome; for Patience*
 “ *works Experience, and Experience Hope,*
 “ *and Hope is as an Anchor to the Soul.*
 “ *So in all things, Dear Friends, wait to*
 “ *feel Self Buried in the Spiritual Death;*
 “ *for if we Suffer with Christ, we shall*
 “ *Reign with him; and such as are Risen*
 “ *with him, will seek the things that are*
 “ *Above, where Christ sitteth at the Right*
 “ *Hand of God, who is far ascended above*
 “ *all Principalities and Powers, that he*
 “ *may fill all things; and of his Divine*
 “ *fulness Thousands have Received, who*
 “ *can speak forth to his Glory, and to*
 “ *the Praise of his Name; that which we*
 “ *have felt, tasted and handled of the*
 “ *word of Life, and can set to their Seals*
 “ *that God is true.*

“ *And so, Dear Friends, in the deep*
 “ *Love of God, wherewith my Soul is*
 “ *affected,*

The Life of Mary Whiting.

31

“ *affected*, and my *Cup* doth *overflow* ;
“ I have given forth those *words* in the
“ *Living Spring* of the *Eternal Power* ;
“ and I also signify unto you, that I
“ know not when I shall see your *Faces* ;
“ for it was my *Desire* to have seen you
“ e’re this time. And in order thereunto,
“ I came with speed to the *Town* of
“ *Reading* ; determining in my *Mind*, as
“ far as I felt freedom to *Return* ; but in
“ the interval of *Time*, the *Voice* of the
“ *Lord* ran thorow me on this wise.
“ Thou shalt not *Return* into thy own
“ *Country*, but thou shalt *Return* to
“ *London*. Do not *Reason* or *Consult*
“ in thy *Mind*, *Obe*y my *Voice*, and
“ *Go* ; Lo I have sent thee. “ Where-
“ fore in *Obedience* to the *Lord* I *Gave up*
“ my *Life* to his *Service*, not minding the
“ *Present Difficulty*, but keeping my *Eye*
“ to the *Power*, which is able to *carry*
“ through all, I came in the *Cross* to the
“ *City* of *London* ; and the *Lord* was with
“ me, and gave me *Good Success* ; and I
“ *Resigned* in my *Mind* not to depart out
“ of the *City*, until I felt the same *Eter-*
“ *nal Arm* which brought me in, to lead
“ me forth again, whether soever he
“ pleaseth.

“ So when I had waited a *Month*, the
“ *Word* of the *Lord* came unto me, saying ;
“ Thou

The Life of Mary Whiting.

" Thou shalt go and Preach the Gospel,
 " and Proclaim the Day of Glad Ti-
 " dings, of Redemption and Sancti-
 " fication to all People whether I shall
 " send thee; fear not, for I am with
 " thee, and my Power shall accompany
 " thee to the End, with Signs follow-
 " ing. And I said, Lord, whether shall I
 " go? and he Answered, *Whithersoever*
 " *I shall Lead thee.* So in Obedience to
 " the Lord I am Given up to Answer his
 " Requirings. And when I felt the Coun-
 " sel of the Lord towards me, to pass into
 " the North, it came upon me thus to
 " Write: And so having Answered the
 " Requirings of the Lord on this wise, I
 " Rest for Ever a *Lover of the Truth*, de-
 " siring the God of Peace to be with you,
 " and to Bless; Keep and Preserve you,
 " and to Establish you in every Good Word
 " and Work, that you may be a People to
 " his Praise, to his Honour, and to his
 " Glory, who is God over all, Blessed for
 " Ever, and for Evermore.

London, the 6th Day of
 the 11th Month, 1675. }

M. Whiting.

She

The Life of Mary Whiting.

33

She *Wrote* also several LETTERS to Particular *Friends*, (besides my Self) some of which I have by me (well worth the Reading) but they being more *Private*, and not of so *General a Concern*, are here omitted.

From *London* she went to *Ware*, so to *Hartford*, and through *Hartfordshire*, *Bedfordshire*, *Huntingtonshire*; and from *Huntington* she sent me a *Letter*, the 14th of the 12th Month, desiring me to Meet her at *Daniel Wills's* at *Northampton*, whither she intended, and came; but before I could order my *Business* to go, and came thither, she was passed on pretty far *Northward*, through *Leicestershire*, *Nottinghamshire*, *Darbyshire*, *Yorkshire*, into *Bishoprick*. I followed after her, from *Northampton*, to *Leicester*, *Nottingham*, *Mansfield*, *Chesterfield*, *Wakefield*, *Leeds*, *Malsham*, (where *Robert Lodge* Dwelt) *North-Allerton*, &c. (hearing of her at several Places as I passed along) till I came to *Norton*, near *Stockton*, in the County of *Durham*, where I met with her, (the 1st of the 2d Month, 1676.) My Coming to her was very *Providential*; for when I came, she was taken Ill at a *Friend's House*; but at my coming to her, she was somewhat Revived to see me, and walked out in the

E

Orchard

1676.

The Life of Mary Whiting.

Orchard with me next Day (being a fine Day) and gave me an account of many things, and disclosed her Mind to me, to my great *Comfort* and *Satisfaction*. But a Fear struck me concerning her, and to my great Sorrow, she grew worse again, and took her Bed next Day, but sate up two or three Days after.

When she first took her Bed, she said to me, *She hoped she should die*: I asked her, whether she thought she should? she said, *the Will of the Lord be done, she had Served him Faithfully in her Day, and was Resigned to his will; desiring my well-being, and Exhorting me to be Faithful to the Lord; and not to be Troubled or Cast down at any thing, however it might be; and advising me to be diligent in Meetings; and particularly, to frequent Bristol-Meetings as much as I could, for that it would be an Enlivening or Reviving to me* (as indeed I have often found it) *Saying, Thou mayest be Saved, but thou wilt meet with Exercises* (which I have found true many ways, but the Lord hath upheld under all) *for through many Tribulations we must enter into the Kingdom.* She expressed much Love to her other Brothers, especially the Eldest; *Saying, there was a tender thing in him from his Childhood, and desired he might not lose it, or be hurried out of it*
through

The Life of Mary Whiting.

35

through the Incumbrances of the world; expressing her Love to all Friends (desiring their Preservation) and Concern for all People, which she always much desired the Salvation of. With much more than can now well be Remembred.

But her Distemper (which was a *Feavor*) Encreasing upon her, she grew *weaker and weaker*; and the Day before she Died, she lay very still and quiet, as if she was *Retired* to her Centre, and waiting for her *Disolution*; and tho' she had her Senses and Speech fresh and quick in her, she did not say much. And about the 7th Hour in the Evening, that Day Week I came to her (being Seventh Day) she quietly Departed this Life, to my great Grief and Exercise, and laid down her Head in peace with the Lord, I am verily perswaded; and doubt not but she is at Rest with the Lord, in the Heavenly Kingdom, according to her desire in her Life time, where all Tears are wiped away, and where the weary are at rest. And indeed she never desired Long Life, but rather to be prepared to Die, which was her Great Concern, seeking a better Country, and a City that hath Foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God. Having an Eye to the Recompence of Reward which is laid up in store for all the Faithful; and which far transcends

The Life of Mary Whiting.

all the *Transitory Enjoyments* of this present Time, which I doubt not but she *Enjoys*, as the *Fruit* of her *Labours*, and *Faithfulness* to the *Lord*, whom she *sought and served* from her *Childhood*, and walked in *Sincerity*, *Humility*, *Sobriety*, and the *Fear of the Lord*, to the end of her Days.

For whom, I could *Lament*, in Remembrance of what she was to me many ways while we were together; and the many *precious Opportunities* we have enjoyed, and when we have been walking by our selves, *Discoursing* of the *Things of God*, how she hath opened the *Mysteries of the Kingdom* unto me, to my *Great Comfort*, and strengthening my *Faith* and *Hope*, even to this very day; but now I am deprived of her, and the benefit of her Company, which Time will not wear out of my Remembrance. But I must not give way to *Sorrow*, or *Mourn as them that are without Hope*, Believing we shall Live together in the *Heavenly Kingdom*, as I abide Faithful to the *Lord*; desiring I may follow her Steps, who hath left a good Savour behind her.

I could say much more concerning her, if needful; but can add nothing to her, being fixed in her *Eternal Mansion*; only for the *Encouragement* of others, that do
and

The Life of Mary Whiting.

37

and may hereafter *Fear the Lord*, is this Written, and for a *Memorial of her in Time to come*. Oh! that it might be an inducement ment to all that have any Desires after the Lord, to follow her *Example*, in seeking him in their early Days, that they may Reap the Benefit thereof in Elder Years; that *Living in the Fear of God*, they may come to *Die in his Favour*, and so it may be well with them, when Time in this World shall be no more; as was her Desire; and as no doubt it is with her, and that she hath Received *the Crown of Life*, which is the *Reward* of the Faithful, and which is laid up for all *that love the Appearance* of our Lord *Jesus Christ*, in Sincerity and Truth.

She Departed this Life, the 8th of the 2d Month, 1676. in the Two and Twentieth Year of her Age, and was Buried the 10th of the same, in Friend's Burying-Ground, in the said Parish of *Norton*: Accompanied to her Grave by many Friends, and Neighbours thereabouts. After which, I Returned Home with a heavy Heart for the Loss of her; but the Lord was very near me, and good to me. I Lived Retired at my own House for some time, but soon after, my Troubles began with the *Priest*, in the *Bishop's Court*, for

Tpthes,

The Life of Mary Whiting.

Tythes, which terminated in my *Imprisonment* (the 28th of the 4th Month, 1679.) on the Writ *De Excommunicato Capiendo*; of which, in another Place. And so Recommending all to the *Grace of God*, with my own Soul, and what I have Written to his Witness, I shall here Conclude this, and Rest,

Ivelchester Prison, where I Suffer outward Bonds, under that *Great Oppression* of *Tythes*, the 8th of the 8th Month, 1681.

A *Friend and Lover* of the *Truth*, and them that walk therein, and a *Sufferer* for the same.

JOHN WHITING.



FINIS.